



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prospective Plantings

HARRISBURG, PA, Mar 30, 2007 - **Pennsylvania** farmers intend to plant more acres of corn this spring and harvest more acres of burley and seedleaf-type tobacco this year than a year ago. Wheat and southern Maryland type tobacco acres are unchanged from last year. Planting intentions for barley, oats, sorghum, and soybeans are all down from last year, as are harvesting intentions for dry hay according to the Pennsylvania field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

All **wheat** planted, at 160,000 acres, is unchanged from last year, and 7 percent above the 2005 planted acres. **Barley** planting intentions are estimated at 50,000 acres, 9 percent less than the 55,000 acres planted the last two years. **Oat** planting intended acreage is 125,000, down 7 percent from last year, and 11 percent below 2005.

Intended plantings of **corn** for all purposes are 1,450,000 acres, up 100,000 acres or 7 percent from both last year and two years ago, and the highest intended acreage to be planted for all purposes since 1,450,000 acres were planted in 2003. Farmers also intend to plant 11,000 acres of **sorghum** in 2007, which is down 2,000 acres from last year, but unchanged from 2005. **Soybean** acreage planting intentions are 410,000 acres, 5 percent less than the 430,000 planted both last year and in 2005.

Intentions are to harvest 1,100 acres of Southern Maryland-type **tobacco**, unchanged from 2006 and down 27 percent from two years ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 1,800 acres, 38 percent above both last year and two years ago. Pennsylvania farmers also intend to plant 6,500 acres of light air-cured burley tobacco this year, which is 18 percent above last year and 195 percent more than two years ago.

Harvest intentions for all **dry hay** in 2007 are estimated at 1,700,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from last year's harvest, but 100,000 acres more than in 2005.

Corn growers in the **United States** intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized, this would be the highest acreage since 1944 when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all states as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn. The increase in intended acres is partially offset by lower expected acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains and fewer expected acres of cotton and rice in the Delta and Southeast. Illinois farmers intend to plant a record high 12.9 million acres of corn this spring, up 1.60 million acres from last year.

Continued on next page.

Soybean producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast. Large decreases in soybean acreage are expected across the Corn Belt, with the largest decline expected in Illinois, down 1.40 million acres from 2006. However, area planted to soybeans is expected to increase in the Southeast, with Georgia expecting the largest increase from last year at 95,000 acres. Planted acreage in New York is expected to be the largest on record at 210,000.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006. the 2007 winter wheat planted area, at 44.5 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter wheat; 8.66 million acres are Soft Red Winter wheat, and 3.92 million acres White Winter wheat.

The 2007 intended sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 7.11 million acres, up 9 percent from 2006. Barley producers intend to plant 3.70 million acres in 2007, up 7 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the second lowest barley acreage on record. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2007 crop year are expected to total 4.03 million, down 3 percent from last year. All tobacco growers intend to harvest 344,170 acres in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006 and 16 percent above 2005.

Acreage to be harvested for dry hay is expected to be 63.1 million in 2007, up 4 percent from 2006.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of changes in grower plans, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

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